

International Conference on Nutrition

*288. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the recent International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) held in Rome;

(b) the role played by India in the Conference;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in the Conference regarding National Action Plans for combating hunger and malnutrition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India actively participated in the deliberations of the Conference.

(c) to (d). The Conference resolved that the member countries would revise or prepare, before the end of 1994, their national plans of action with regard to various goals and objectives, including combating hunger and malnutrition.

[*Translation*]

Effect of Chemical Fertilizers

*289 SHRI RAM PUJAN
PATEL:
SHRIGUMAN MAL
LODHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has made any study regarding the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the impact of chemical fertilizers on underground water;

(c) whether any remedial measures have been recommended by ICAR in the regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to set up an advisory body for the conservation of soil, underground water and environment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several field experiments have been carried out through all India Coordinated Projects and at State Agricultural Universities. These experiments reveal that balanced use of chemical fertilizers does not cause any adverse effect on agricultural production. So far as the pollution of ground water is concerned at the current level of fertilizer application in the country, of about 71 kg/ha, the impact of chemical fertilizers is negligible.

(c) to (d). The current recommendations and the continuing research programmes emphasise the adoption of integrated nutrient supply through balanced use of major and micro-nutrients, organic manures and bio-fertilizers so that higher agricultural production can be sustained over a period of time with less negative effect on the environment.

(e) No,

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Agricultural Production in Eastern Region

*290. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any special schemes in the Eastern region of the country for increasing the agricultural production in view of low growth rate of agriculture in that region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have evaluated the impact of the said schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Government of India had launched a Special Rice Production Programme during 1985-86 in Eastern Region, which was merged with Special Foodgrains Production Programme (Rice) and is now termed as Integrated Programme for Rice Development. Besides, Special Foodgrains Production Programme on Maize and Millets, Wheat, Pulses and Special Jute Development Programme are being implemented in identified States of the country including Eastern region for increasing productivity and production of relevant crops. Several other programmes for increasing the agricultural production (like Intensive Cotton Development Programme, National Pulses Development Programme, Oilseeds Production Programme and National watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, etc.) are being implemented in the country, including the States in the Eastern Region.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, The impact of

implementation of these schemes in the region has been reviewed by the Government. The schemes have helped in increasing productivity and production of the relevant crops in the region.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

*291. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the country which have started production in the current season;

(b) the number of sugar mills lying closed at present and the remedial measures adopted for reviving them; and

(c) the target fixed for sugar production during the current crushing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) 386 sugar mills were in production as on 31.1.93 during the current season 1992-93 (October-September).

(b) 28 sugar mills have not gone into production as on 31.1.93 during the current season 1992-93 (October-September). The measure taken by the Government in this regard are as follows:

- i) A new sugar policy has been formulated with a view to improving the financial viability of sugar mills.
- ii) State Governments have been directed to assess the reasons for the non-functioning of these mills and to take appropriate action to ensure commencement of their operations.
- iii) State Governments have also been directed that in case of delay in commencement of operations due to unavoidable reasons, arrangements be